

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: May 24, 1954

SUBJECT: Situation in Guatemala

PARTICIPANTS: The Secretary
Ambassador João Carlos Muniz of Brazil
Mr. Holland, ARA

COPIES TO: S/S (2 copies)
MID - Mr. Burrows; Mr. Leddy
OSA - Mr. Atwood
G - Mr. Murphy

The Brazilian Ambassador said that his Government had decided to support us in a proposal to convoke the Organ of Consultation to consider the Guatemalan problem. He read to the Secretary an English translation of a letter written by Chancellor Rao to Muniz. The letter stated Brazil's willingness to join us, emphasized the necessity for a strong statement distinguishing between the United Fruit and the Communist problems in Guatemala, stated that Brazil would try to enlist the support of countries in its area.

The Secretary thanked the Ambassador and emphasized the importance that he attributed to the Ambassador's mission and to the plan upon which we are embarking.

The Ambassador and I then had a further conversation in my office. I outlined to him the particular measures that we would like to take at an OAS meeting, i.e. (1) a finding that further shipments of arms from Soviet areas to this hemisphere imperilled the peace of America and (2) a decision that the American States will take appropriate measures to prevent their occurrence and to prevent the travel of international Communist agents in this hemisphere. I pointed out that we would expect to implement such measures by actually detaining ships and other means of conveyance.

He said that he thought this was a much better course than one of applying the Caracas Resolution and strong economic sanctions. He said that he would that same night cable Rio for approval of this course and asked that I not go further with other States until he had a reply.

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Enclosure of Conc

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Out M. ady. in S/S
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I agreed.

I pointed out to the Ambassador that, without revealing that we had such a plan, we had gotten some initial reactions from various different Latin American Governments, and that they seemed generally to be favorable.

APPROVE ☒
DISAPPROVE ☐

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ARA:HFHolland:dwm